



# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

*Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull  
Commissioner

July 30, 2015

**TO: ATLANTIC MENHADEN BUYERS AND HARVESTERS**  
**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**RE: CLOSURE OF THE DIRECTED MENHADEN HAUL SEINE FISHERY**

Effective 6:00 P.M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Friday, July 31, 2015, the commercial directed menhaden Haul Seine fishery will close. Based on landing reports from mandatory harvest reporting and Virginia seafood buyers, it is projected that Virginia will have harvested 100% of the 22,113 pounds of the directed menhaden haul seine quota, by the above date and time.

As provided in Chapter 4 VAC20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden", when a non-purse seine menhaden bait sector gear quota is announced, by the Commissioner, as having been attained, a 6,000 pound bycatch limit is established. Bycatch landings by that gear type shall not exceed more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day. All bycatch landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M., EDST, July 31, 2015 it shall be unlawful to harvest or land more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day, for commercial purposes, by use of gillnet, fyke net and haul seine in Virginia, for the remainder of 2015.

If you have questions or comments contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Grist at (757) 247-2236.

JC(PS):jc

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

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